



## The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

By Mark Twain



English 1302 Assignment Guide  
LSC-University Park Library

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain is an 1876 novel about a clever young boy growing up along the Mississippi River. The story takes place in the 1840s. Tom, the mischievous and creative here, has adventures that would be impossible for boys of the twentieth century. Meet Tom, his Aunt Polly, and his friends Huck Finn and Joe Harper. Follow the story of Tom's adventures with Injun Joe, Muff Potter, Judge Thatcher, Becky, and Widow Douglas.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910), who used the pseudonym Mark Twain, was raised in Hannibal, Missouri, which was similar to the small town Tom lived in. He served in the Confederate militia during the Civil War, and he later worked as a typesetter, a Mississippi steamboat pilot, and a newspaper reporter. In later life, he was famous for his humorous speeches.

### ASSIGNMENT

Write a 10 page critical analysis of *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer*. Use several peer reviewed articles for your background and authoritative information. Be sure this is your analysis. After reading, have your thesis approved by your instructor. Consult your syllabus for draft due dates. Be sure and save copies of your works cited and attach them to your final draft

#### Using this Guide

The assignment guide is the best place to begin your library research. Librarians have selected internet links, databases, and digital resources that will assure you are using scholarly resources.

#### Contact your English Instructor

Professor David Miller, Chair

Website: <http://www.lonestar.edu/blogs/davidmiller/>

Office: 281/290-5058 | [David.W.Miller@lonestar.edu](mailto:David.W.Miller@lonestar.edu)

#### Meet Your Librarian



QR the library.



Peggy Whitley

Contact::

[pwhitley@lonestar.edu](mailto:pwhitley@lonestar.edu)

## FINDING BOOKS

The searchable full-text of Tom Sawyer is free on [Google Books](#). Select a few keywords that will help you get the specific information you need to support your theme. Characters are always good for searching. For Tom Sawyer, terms like *boys, pranks, treasure, fence*.

**Themes to Consider:** Youth, racial issues, hopes and dreams, visions of America, family, supernatural, religion, language and communication and manipulation.

The LSC-University Park library is digital. The advantage to using [eContent](#) is that it is searchable, which really helps when you are looking for your theme Use the [catalog](#) from

## FINDING ARTICLES

The English 1302 paper requires scholarly resources. Use the library databases to be sure you have the 'right stuff.' Log in from home or work with your library barcode number.

- [Literature Resource Center](#)  
Full text articles from literature reference books and Twayne's Masterworks books. This resource also has links to scholarly journal articles and appropriate Internet sites.
- [Project Muse](#)  
Search and browse the full text of nearly 250 scholarly journals. There are many articles about this novel.
- [JSTOR Arts & Sciences](#)  
Search and browse the complete back issues for more than 117 scholarly journals.
- [Academic Search Complete](#)  
Scholarly journal articles, many full text. Limit to "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" for scholarly journals.
- [America's Historical Newspapers](#) is available online from 1690 through 2000.  
To find early articles, search for "Mark Twain" and "Huckleberry Finn." Use the quotation marks.

## INTERNET SITES

Internet sites can be helpful. Make sure you evaluate the sites you find for:

1. **Accuracy** - The information should be researched and show proof that it has been.
2. **Source** - Who wrote the information? Look at the domain. .edu .gov. org .net are valid research sources.
3. **Authority** - What are the author's credentials? (Don't quote from another college freshman's paper.)
4. **Coverage** - Does the page have the information you need for your research?
5. **Objectivity** - If a work is biased, use it - just make sure your professor knows YOU know. And offer both sides of issues, where applicable.

[Mark Twain in his Times](#) Articles, contemporary reviews, images and interactive sites about the novel written by Stephen Railton, English Dept., University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

[Mark Twain's Interactive Scrapbook](#) Interactive scrapbook about Mark Twain from PBS. "Discover the true Mark Twain through his writing and his collection of artifacts in his scrapbook."

[The Mark Twain Papers and Project](#) Contains the private papers of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) that he himself segregated and made available to his official biographer, Albert Bigelow Paine.

[The Adventures of Tom Sawyer](#) on youtube.com. Watch at least a little piece of the original film to get the language and dialect.

[Reviews of the Adventures of Tom Sawyer and of Mark Twain](#) Read the critical reviews written at the time *Tom Sawyer* was published.

## CITING SOURCES

[Citing Sources Using the Library MLA Style Guide](#) | Lone Star College-Kingwood Library guide. Examples of both print and electronic citations. A hard copy of this guide is available for you in the library.

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Peggy Whitley, 2012